

HOUSE BILL 2359
By Brown

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 21, Part 2 and Title 4, Chapter 29, Part 2, relative to the human rights commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-21-201, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) There is hereby created the Tennessee human rights commission.

(b) The commission shall consist of twenty-one (21) members who shall be appointed by the governor. Each appointment made after the effective date of this act shall be confirmed by resolution adopted by each house of the general assembly prior to the commencement of the term of office for which the member is appointed. At least seven (7) members of the commission shall reside in each grand division of the state.

(c) Each of the twenty-one (21) members of the commission shall be appointed for a term of six (6) years.

(d) Members of the commission shall annually elect one member to serve as chairperson. No person shall be eligible to serve as chairperson for more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms.

(e)

(1) Members shall be appointed on a nonpartisan basis, shall be broadly representative of employees, proprietors, trade unions, religious groups, human

rights groups and the general public, and shall each possess a demonstrated history of support for the goals and objectives advanced by the provisions of this chapter.

(2) At least four (4) members shall be African Americans; at least one member shall be a Native American, Hispanic American, or Asian American; at least ten (10) members shall be over forty (40) years of age; and at least ten (10) members shall be females. The provisions of this subdivision shall be implemented as appointments are made after the effective date of this act; therefore, the provisions of this subdivision shall not be construed or implemented to abridge the term of office of any member who was appointed prior to the effective date of this act.

(f) In the event of the death or resignation of a member, such member's successor shall be appointed to serve the unexpired term. Under such circumstances, in order to continue to serve as a commission member, the successor to the unexpired term must receive legislative confirmation by resolution adopted by each house of the general assembly within nine (9) months following such appointment.

(g) After the effective date of this act, no member shall be re-appointed to serve a consecutive six (6) year term.

(h) Members shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties and to reasonable fees for each day of service as hearing examiners.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-21-202(1), is amended by deleting the words "an office in Davidson County" and by substituting instead the following:

offices in Shelby County, Davidson County, Knox County, and Hamilton County

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-21-202, is amended by deleting item (3) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3) Annually appoint an executive director, fix the director's compensation with the approval of the governor, and delegate any of its functions and duties to the director in the interest of efficient management of the appropriations and resources of the agency;

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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